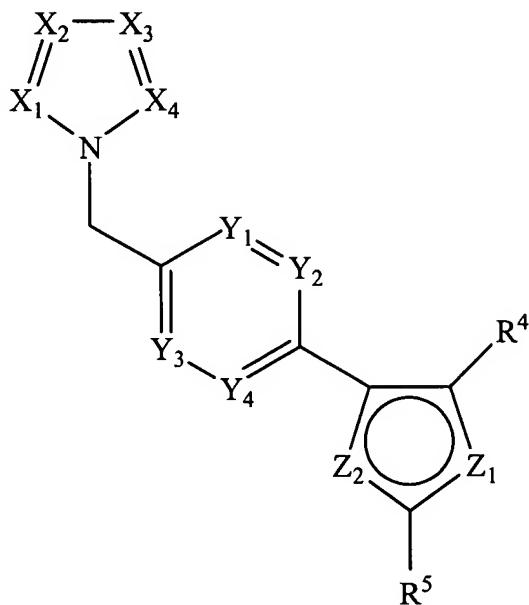


CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Amended) A compound of formula I,



wherein

X₁ represents -C(R¹)- and X₂ represents -N-;

X₃ represents -C(R²)-;

X₄ represents -C(R³)-;

R¹ represents H, and R² and R³ independently represent H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl or halo;

Y₁, Y₂, Y₃, and Y₄ independently represent -CH- or -CF-;

Z₁ represents S;

Z₂ represents -CH-, -O-, or -N-;

R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶, -S(O)₂N(H)S(O)₂R⁶, or -C(O)N(H)S(O)₂R⁶,

R⁵ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl or di-C₁₋₃-alkylamino-C₁₋₄-alkyl;

R⁶ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, and C₁₋₃ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylamino or di-C₁₋₆ alkylamino or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R² represents C₁₋₃ alkyl, halo or H.

12. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein R² represents H or methyl.

13. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 11 wherein R² represents H.

14. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R³ represents C₁₋₃ alkyl, halo or H.

15. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 14 wherein R³ represents H.

16. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Y₁, Y₂, Y₃ and Y₄ all represent -CH-.

Claims 17 and 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z₂ represents -CH-.

20. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶.

21. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁵ represents *n*-butyl or *iso*-butyl.

22. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 21 wherein R⁵ represents *iso*-butyl.

23. (Previously Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶, -S(O)₂N(H)S(O)₂R⁶ or -C(O)N(H)S(O)₂R⁶, then R⁶ represents *n*-butoxymethyl, *iso*-butoxy or *n*-butoxy.

24. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 23 wherein R⁶ represents *n*-butoxy.

25. (Previously Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when X₁, X₃ and X₄ all represent -CH-, Y₁, Y₂, Y₃ and Y₄ all represent -CH-, Z₂ represents -CH- and R⁵ represents *n*-butyl or *iso*-butyl, then R⁴ represents -S(O)₂N(H)C(O)R⁶, in which R⁶ represents -O-*n*-butyl, -O-*iso*-propyl, -O-*iso*-butyl or -CH₂-O-*n*-butyl.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, which is:
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthio-phene-2-sulfonamide;
N-*iso*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-*iso*-propyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-(butoxyacetyl)-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
~~*N*-butyloxycarbonyl-2-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-4-*iso*-butylbenzenesulfonamide;~~

N-(butylamino)carbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-butylsulfonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
~~*N*-butylsulfonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-carboxamide;~~
~~*N*-butyloxycarbonyl-4-butyl-2-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)benzenesulfonamide;~~
N-ethyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butyl-thiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-[4-(4-methylimidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide;
N-(*N*-butyl-*N*-methylamino)carbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-*iso*-butylthiophene-2-sulfonamide; or
N-butyloxycarbonyl-3-(4-imidazol-1-ylmethylphenyl)-5-(2-methoxyethyl)-thiophene-2-sulfonamide.

27. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

Claims 28-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an AT1 receptor antagonist, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

33. (Original) A kit of parts comprising components:

- (a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and

- (b) a pharmaceutical formulation including an AT1 receptor antagonist, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

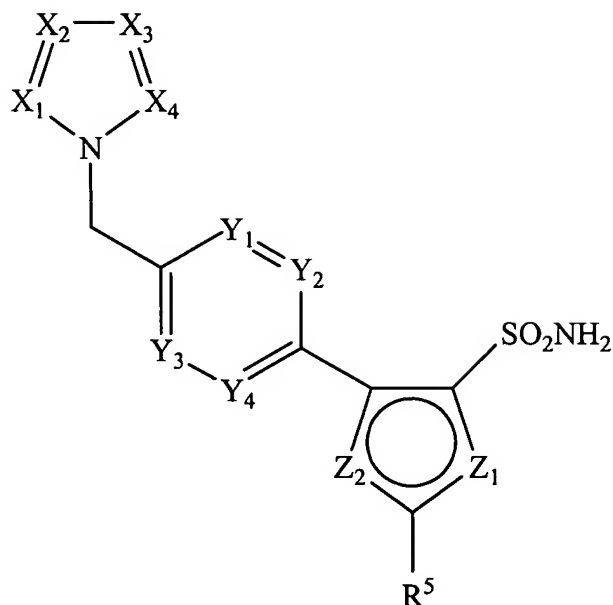
34. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

35. (Original) A kit of parts comprising components:

- (a) a pharmaceutical formulation including a compound as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture is with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier; and
- (b) a pharmaceutical formulation including an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, in admixture with a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier, which components (a) and (b) are each provided in a form that is suitable for administration in conjunction with the other.

36. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound as defined in claim 1, which comprises:

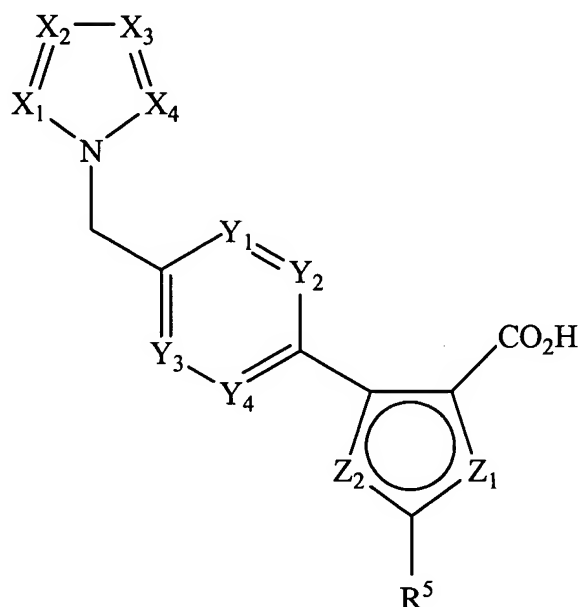
(i) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents $--S(O)_2N(H)C(O)R^6$ or $--S(O)_2N(H)S(O)_2R^6$, and R^6 is as defined in claim 1, reaction of a compound of formula II,



wherein X₁, X₂, X₃, X₄, Y₁, Y₂, Y₃, Y₄, Z₁, Z₂ and R⁵ are as defined in claim 1 with a compound of formula III, R⁶GL¹ III wherein G represents C(O) or S(O)₂ (as appropriate), L¹ represents a suitable leaving group and R⁶ is as defined in claim 1;

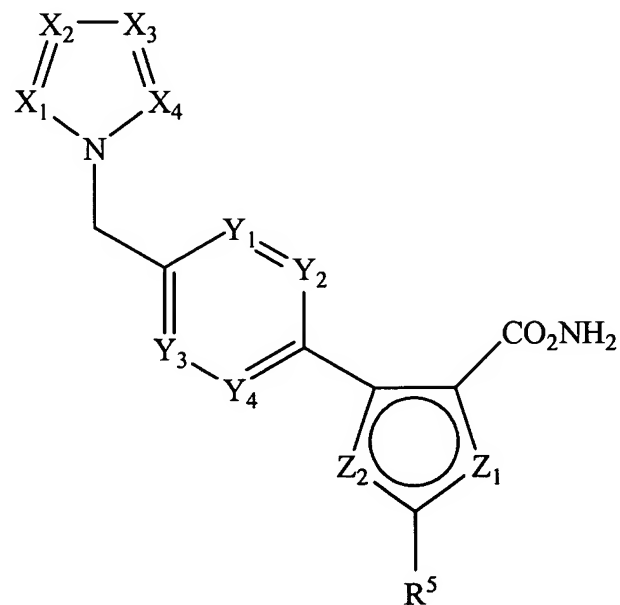
(ii) for compounds of formula I in which R⁴ represents --S(O)₂2N(H)C(O)R⁶ and R⁶ represents C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, coupling of a compound of formula II as defined above with a compound of formula IV, R^{6a}CO₂H IV wherein R^{6a} represents C₁₋₆ alkoxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl;

(iii) for compounds of formula I in which R⁴ represents --C(O)N(H)S(O)₂R⁶ and R⁶ is as defined in claim 1, coupling of a compound of formula V,



wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , X_4 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 , Y_4 , Z_1 , Z_2 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula VI, $R^6S(O)_2NH_2$ VI wherein R^6 is as defined in claim 1;

(iv) for compounds of formula I in which R^4 represents $--C(O)N(H)S(O)_2R^6$ and R^6 is as defined in claim 1, coupling of a compound of formula VII,



wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , X_4 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 , Y_4 , Z_1 , Z_2 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula VIII, $R^6S(O)_2Cl$ VIII wherein R^6 is as defined in claim 1;

37. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula II as defined in claim 36.

38. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula II as claimed in claim 36, or a protected derivative thereof, wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 all represent --CH--, Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 , and Y_4 all represent --CH--, Z_1 represents --S--, Z_2 represents --CH-- and R^5 represents n-butyl or isobutyl.

39. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula V as defined in claim 36.

40. (Withdrawn) A compound of formula VII as defined in claim 36.

Claims 41 -42. (Cancelled)

43. (Withdrawn) A method of treating cardiovascular disorders, comprising administering a compound of Claim 1 to a patient in need of treatment thereof, wherein the cardiovascular is selected from the group consisting of hypertension, cardiac hypertrophy, cardiac failure, arteriosclerosis, arterial thrombosis, venous thrombosis, endothelial dysfunction, endothelial lesions, post-balloon dilatation stenosis, angiogenesis, microvascular dysfunction, angina, cardiac arrhythmias, claudicatio intermittens, preeclampsia, myocardial infarction, reinfarction, ischaemic lesions, and neointima proliferation.